

# **Community Garden Rules and Regulations**

**March 30, 2015**

## **GARDENERS**

1. Gardeners must follow all local, state and federal laws and regulations including the noted Rules and Regulations.
2. Unless otherwise stated, Gardeners must be residents of the Town of Wellesley.
3. Gardeners must ensure that their contact information is current. Contact information should include name, address, phone number and email address.
4. Gardeners must park in the designated parking areas for safety reasons.
5. Gardeners may not “give”, “promise” or “assign” their plot for cultivation to another person.
6. Gardeners may not remove anything from another plot unless the request is approved by the governing body or Resident Board.
7. Gardeners may not play music at high volume.
8. Gardeners may not barbeque, grill, or light a fire unless a permit is obtained from the town of Wellesley.
9. Gardeners may not invite others to actively garden on their plot, i.e., for the other gardener to use part of the plot to grow for themselves. All plot use is distributed by the NRC per application of resident.

## **PLANTING RESTRICTIONS**

1. To protect the Town’s water supply and the health of fellow Gardeners the use of any non-organic chemicals including fertilizers, weed killers (herbicides), pesticides, and fungicides is prohibited.
2. No invasive plants are permitted in the Garden. A list of invasive plants can be found at the web site: <http://www.mass.gov/agr/farmproducts/prohibitedplantlist.htm>
3. Dumping or “storing” of any material in or outside the Garden plots is prohibited. Violators will be fined under Town By-law 49.2, Use of Public Ways and Places.
4. Brambles such as raspberries, blackberries, or similar plants may not occupy more than 25% of the space, since planting a bramble patch does not constitute active gardening.
5. Although the garden is primarily intended for annual fruits and vegetables, perennials may also be planted at your own risk, realizing that individual plots are not owned, but are lent to each Gardener for a finite period of time.
6. Trees or tall plants that shade or encroach on neighboring plots are not allowed.

## **MAINTENANCE**

1. Each Gardener is responsible for installing a fence around his/her garden.
2. Gardeners should tend their plantings throughout the season by trimming, thinning, and harvesting as needed to keep the garden productive.
3. Gardeners are required to clear weeds or trees growing within their plot and on their fence, keep the aisles and paths surrounding their plot free and clean of weeds, trash and other materials to ensure that the common paths are passable by others.
4. Gardeners must ensure that the garden area is neatly maintained out of respect for neighbors. Tools and other garden related items may be stored within the plot, if they are arranged neatly. At the end of the season, Gardeners must clear their plots of dead plants and other decorations.
5. Diseased plants should be placed in a plastic bag and disposed as trash in the towns Recycling and Disposal Trash Facility (RDF).
6. Plant material generated from active gardening may be disposed at the designated compost sites of the Garden.
7. Non-organic material used in the Garden must be carried off site and disposed at the Town’s Recycling and Trash Facility (RDF).
8. Municipal water will be provided and subject to any water restrictions or bans as required by the DPW.
9. Water in uncovered containers or any standing water is not permitted for health reasons. The water in bird baths should be changed or flushed out using a garden hose at least once a week.
10. Any environmental public health issues relating to poison ivy, stinging insects or other similar issues will be addressed by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) in cooperation with the Board of Health and Department of Public Works (DPW).

## **STRUCTURES/FURNISHINGS**

1. No permanent fixtures may be installed in a plot, and no indoor style furnishings (except as approved by the NRC/DPW).
2. Gardeners may use the wood chips that DPW provides to cover paths to control weed growth and cover muddy walkways. Newspaper or cardboard beneath wood chips is the recommended method for additional weed suppression.
3. Items NOT permitted in the plots and surrounding paths:
  - a. Neither carpets nor non-organic, non-biodegradable weed control fabrics as a weed control measure.
  - b. Neither concrete nor asphalt foundations nor pavement.
  - c. Introduction of rock or gravel materials within plots or walkways.
4. Plot gates may be locked at the individual Gardeners discretion.

## **PLOT ASSIGNMENT, REVOCATION AND APPEAL PROCESS**

1. Plots are reviewed each January and notifications are sent out by the end of the January.
2. Only one plot will be issued per household. A non-refundable fee is assessed to cover water and maintenance expenses. The annual fee is due March 15th, and any plot with an unpaid fee will become available.
3. If a plot becomes available, existing Gardeners in good standing will have the option to switch plots prior to plots being assigned to the general waiting list. If more than one existing gardener would like plot, plot will be assigned by lottery.
4. At the start of the season, if there is no clear evidence of active gardening by June 1st, the Gardener will be contacted and given two weeks to respond. If no response is received, the plot will be considered abandoned.
5. A Gardener will be notified by Email and regular mail of non-compliance with the Garden Rules and Regulations and will be given a two weeks' notice to respond to the situation. If no improvement occurs, then the Resident Board may revoke the garden.
6. If a Garden is revoked, a Gardener may appeal the determination to the NRC. The appeal request must be received by the governing body or Resident Board within one week of the revocation. The decision of the NRC is final.
7. If a Garden is revoked, the Gardener will have one week to remove any personal items from the plot.
8. In case of a hardship that may prevent a Gardener to address non-compliance issues temporarily, such as an extended vacation, illness or other unplanned emergency, the Gardener needs to relay the situation to the governing body or Resident Board and consideration will be given. The maximum accommodation period is one growing season.